

WAVES

Western Association of Veterans Education Specialists

Letter from our President Luanne Davis - Arizona State University

Dear Colleague:

It has been an eventful Fall 2001, to say the least. We are all so busy with the start of school each year, but the events of September 11 have forever changed our lives. Many of us are experiencing the activation of our students and trying to help them make decisions concerning their education. We are so grateful to them for the sacrifices they have made for our country. Eradicating terrorism is not going to be easy and perhaps a long time in the doing. It is unfortunate we have to experience something of this magnitude to bring us together as a nation. I am so proud and grateful I live in the greatest country on earth.

Those of us that attended the WAVES 2001 Conference in Flagstaff received lots of training and enjoyed the wonderful facilities at Little America in Flagstaff, AZ. The only suggestion we received was not to have so many choices for training. Thanks to all of you who participated in some way. Whether you were an attendee or a presenter, you all helped in making it such a great success.

Our WAVES 2002 Conference will be in the Seattle, WA area. Carol Hathaway-Pitts, the conference chairperson, has more information in this newsletter about the conference and facilities.

The Oklahoma folks want your opinion about the site of the 2003 WAVES Conference. They would like to know if you want it to be held in Tulsa or Oklahoma City. Please let Paula Barnes know via email at:

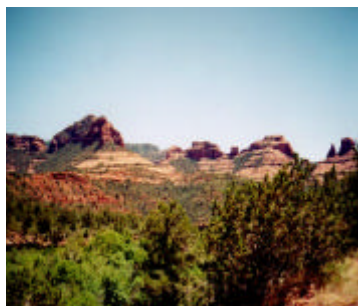
PMB8858@OKSTATE.EDU

(See page 3 for detailed article)

Have a wonderful Holiday Season.
Hope you all can join us in
Washington next summer.

Luanne Davis, WAVES President

Arizona



AWARDS



Luanne Davis
2001 WAVES President
Presidential Award

Presenter: Robert Ramirez,
2000 Waves President



Annabelle Smith
1999 WAVES President

Bill B. Pearson Lifetime Achievement
Award



Francie Wright, Education
Program Chief
VA - RPO - Muskogee

Bill B. Pearson Lifetime Achievement
Award



Lance Thompson, ELR Arizona
Bill B. Pearson Lifetime Achievement
Award

KUDOS
To the Local Arrangements
Committee for the 2001 WAVES
Conference!

OUTSTANDING JOB !!!!!!!

Luanne Davis, Arizona State University –
Chairperson
 Alice Boothby, Scottsdale Community
 College
 Shirley Clay, Rio Salado Community
 College
 Lisa Hill, Coconino Community College
 Leland Sevy, Arizona Department of
 Veterans Affairs
 Greg Thomas, Northern Arizona University
 Lance Thompson, Department of Veterans
 Affairs, RPO Phoenix
 Valerie Vigil, Mesa Community College

No one could believe they were in the “right” room! The facilities were simply awesome.

For example, Annabelle Smith was in the “room” right across the hall from me. She and I have totally different philosophies about how to handle the situation when you just know there must be a mistake. She opened her door, gasped, and would not even let the bellboy leave until she had called the front desk and straightened this out. Me? Well, I was basking in the luxury until someone discovered his or her error. I wasn’t about to call anyone! Turns out we were in the “right” rooms!! Each room was a suite and had a view! What a deal!



(Above Photo) The Great Race came through Flagstaff during the WAVES 2001 conference. The Navy Band led the antique cars into Flagstaff.

HE-RRR-E’ s MUSKOGEE !!
OUR RPO
Source: Aileen Moore,
Chief ELR

Donnie Sawyer was promoted to Coach of the Education Station Team in Muskogee on Nov 4, 2001. This team services VACERT for the RPO and compliance and Liaison activities for Oklahoma, Nevada, Alaska, and Hawaii.

Please remind **school officials** that if they are going to **fax** something to **Muskogee**, the number to use is **918-781-7863**. We don't encourage the schools to submit their paperwork via FAX but on occasion when they do need to send us something, that is the number to use.



The **new number for certifying officials (ONLY)** to call long distance is **918-781-7880**. However, with additional lines being available, the school officials should be able to get in on the toll free 1-888-GIBILL-1 line. The school lines are manned based on the volume experienced on the 1-888 line. If there is no one available on the certifying official line, the caller will get a busy signal instead of no answer. This was changed at the school officials' request. The last day of the month and the first couple of days of the month, most of the time the school lines are not manned due to the volume of monthly cert calls. Since **the paper version of the monthly certifications is being phased**

out, please encourage your chapter 30 veteran students to use our toll-free line to certify themselves for the previous month.

The number is **1-877-823-2378**. If this line tells them certification cannot be completed, then they should call 1-888-GIBILL-1. The Internet monthly certification website (WAVE) is up and running, and has been very successfully since it was reopened in July 2001. Website address:

"http://www.gibill.va.gov"

To start the program, click the link to the WAVE program.

Aileen,
We thank you for
this info!

WAVES 2002
Conference
Information

BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON
 (Tentative Dates)
JULY 10 – 14, 2002

Doubletree Hotel
 300 112th Avenue S.E.
 Bellevue, WA 98004
 (425) 455-1300

Hotel Rate: \$139 single or double

Must make reservations by June 9, 2002 to get this rate!

Where to meet in 2003!!

Yes, that's right, **where do we want to be in 2003?**

Plans are already being made for the meeting site for the third year rotation of WAVES to Oklahoma. Previous years as found the WAVES organization meeting in Tulsa Oklahoma, primarily due to the short distance to Muskogee and the Regional Processing Office. The Local Arrangements Committee members have been investigating possible alternative sites in an attempt to expand the agenda for conference. Special activities and events are fairly limited in the Tulsa area and committee members where discussing the possibility of moving the conference to the Oklahoma City to take advantage of opportunities available there.

The question of "where to meet in 2003" was raised at the business meeting during the 2001 conference in Flagstaff.

At that time, the members present indicated that they were in favor of moving the conference to Oklahoma City for 2003. There were a limited number of members in attendance at that meeting and it was felt that more input from the membership might be warranted.

Oklahoma City has a wide array of activities both indoor/outdoor -- (remember the Oklahoma heat and humidity in July) --- available to meet a host of tastes and preferences. Downtown OKC, where the conference would be

held has activities/events ranging from the Bricktown Canal and Boardwalk, trolley car/canal boat rides, Oklahoma RedHawks Baseball, a triple-A affiliate of the Texas Rangers, OKC National Memorial, and fine dining and/or shopping. A special evening is being planned at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center, which would include activities appropriate for any additional guests or family members who might wish to attend. Conference facilities and hotel accommodations are comparable to Tulsa and there is a major airport available.

**Now for the pivotal news...
Oklahoma City is about 5
hours ROUNDTRIP from the
Muskogee RPO.**

It has been suggested that workshops could be offered en-route to/from Muskogee, along with special prizes and other activities to make the journey not seem quite as long. The buses do have room to stand and stretch your legs and there are restroom facilities on board. As always, effective, quality training will be the goal of WAVES and the conference planning committee, however, this lengthy bus ride is an issue that we felt needed to be brought before the membership for consideration and input.

**So, here's the pitch TELL
US OKIES WHAT YOU
THINK!**

**Please e-mail me with your
thoughts/opinions/preferences as
soon as possible:**

**Believe it! Hotel contracts
need to be made now, in
order to get the dates we
want in 2003!**

Paula Barnes,
2001 WAVES Treasurer

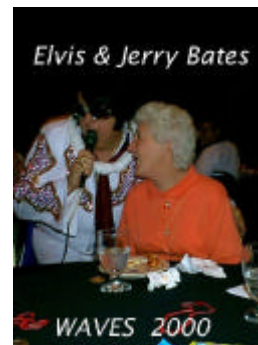
pmb8858@okstate.edu

FOND FAREWELL

We extend our congratulations and best wishes to two wonderful veteran advocates who retired this year!



Celia Dollarhide, who was
Director of Education Services
Washington, DC



Jerry Bates, Veterans Affairs
Spokane Falls Community College

***Season's
Greetings***

Loma Brannon, 2001-02 WAVES
Secretary, Editor & Chief! ☺